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16	DISTRICT C	OF NEVADA
17		
18	QUIXTAR INC.,	Case No. 3:07-cv-00505
19	Plaintiff,	PLAINTIFF QUIXTAR INC.'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY
20	V.	SCOPE TEAM, INC.'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
21	SIGNATURE MANAGEMENT TEAM, LLC d/b/a TEAM, and SKY SCOPE TEAM, INC.,	REDACTED
22	Defendants.	
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	PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY SCOPE'S MO' Case No. 3:07-cv-00505 sf-2861878	TION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

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Plaintiff Quixtar Inc. ("Quixtar") opposes defendant Sky Scope Team, Inc.'s ("Sky Scope") Motion for Summary Judgment, Dkt. No. 553.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sky Scope argues that it is entitled to summary judgment because there is no evidence of it directly committing any of the tortious acts alleged in the First Amended Complaint ("FAC"), and it is not liable either as the owner of defendant Signature Management TEAM, LLC ("TEAM") or under an agency theory. But Sky Scope ignores the alternative basis for liability: that Sky Scope "agreed upon and entered into a conspiracy" with TEAM, its co-founder Orrin Woodward, and other TEAM leaders to harm Quixtar and destroy its business. (FAC, ¶ 102.) To prove conspiracy, Quixtar need only show that Sky Scope "reached a unity of purpose or a common design and understanding, or a meeting of the minds in an unlawful arrangement," with other members. *Gilbrook v. City of Westminster*, 177 F.3d 839, 856 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal citation omitted); *In re Nw. Airlines Corp. Antitrust Litig.*, 208 F.R.D. 174, 199 (E.D. Mich. 2002) (evaluating antitrust conspiracy claim). Sky Scope's motion turns on a narrow issue: if there are any disputed facts from which a jury could conclude that Sky Scope conspired with TEAM, Orrin Woodward, and other TEAM leaders, then Sky Scope's motion must be denied.

Here, the evidence shows that Sky Scope played a key role in TEAM's conspiracy to raid Quixtar's Independent Business Owner distributors ("IBOs") and misappropriate its trade secrets during the second half of 2007 and early 2008. At the very least, the evidence shows that there is a factual dispute over Sky Scope's involvement. The Ninth Circuit has recognized that questions involving state of mind, such as whether a person agreed to join a conspiracy, "are generally factual issues inappropriate for resolution by summary judgment." *Mendocino Envtl. Ctr. v. Mendocino Cnty*, 192 F.3d 1283, 1302 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal citation omitted). The Sixth Circuit has similarly held that for summary judgment purposes, "the question whether an

¹ Pursuant to Local Rule 56-1, Quixtar provides detailed responses to Sky Scope's separate concise statement of facts in a chart attached as Ex. A. Those responses, and the facts set forth in this Opposition, demonstrate that there are genuine issues of material disputed fact which preclude summary judgment.

agreement exists should not be taken from the jury in a civil conspiracy case so long as there is a possibility that the jury can infer from the circumstances [that the alleged conspirators] had a meeting of the minds and thus reached an understanding to achieve the conspiracy's objectives." *Robinson v. Twp. of Waterford*, 883 F.2d 75, 1989 WL 94569, at *7 (6th Cir. Aug. 18, 1989) (internal citations omitted). The factual dispute regarding Sky Scope's role in the conspiracy precludes summary judgment.

Sky Scope became a necessary co-conspirator with Mr. Woodward, TEAM, and other TEAM leaders because in August 2007, a Michigan state court issued an injunction expressly prohibiting Mr. Woodward from engaging in conduct directly at issue in this case, *i.e.*, disparaging Quixtar, misappropriating its trade secrets, and soliciting its IBOs. Under Michigan law, the injunction also enjoined anyone acting in concert with Mr. Woodward from committing those acts. Mr. Woodward therefore was precluded from openly directing TEAM, the company he managed, in carrying out TEAM's raid on Quixtar's IBOs without risking that the Michigan court would find him and/or TEAM in violation of the injunction. In response to the injunction, Mr. Woodward was forced to resign as manager of TEAM.

Sky Scope provided the means by which Mr. Woodward could, together with TEAM, its leaders, profit sharers and senior management, still help direct the campaign against Quixtar. Mr. Woodward had previously set up six Nevada C corporations to jointly own 100% of TEAM.² Mr. Woodward then set up a small group of his closest allies, all of whom were top-level profit sharers in TEAM or within senior management of TEAM, as the sole shareholders of Sky Scope. These shareholders constituted Mr. Woodward's "inner circle" and some of the key members in TEAM's conspiracy to harm Quixtar. Importantly, at the time the stock was issued, the new shareholders executed Stock Option Agreements with Mr. Woodward that granted Mr. Woodward an unrestricted option to purchase all shares of Sky Scope for the nominal price

² In February 2008, the other five C corporations (Apollo Works Holdings, Inc.; Green Gemini Enterprises, Inc.; North Star Solutions, Inc.; Northern Lights Services, Inc.; and Sunset Resources, Inc.) merged into Sky Scope. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to "Sky Scope" include the five companies that merged into it.

³ The Schurz Affidavit is attached to this brief as Exhibit B.

of \$1.00 a share. In effect, the structure of Sky Scope ensured Mr. Woodward would retain ownership of TEAM and remain involved in TEAM and its operations while nominally TEAM was owned and operated by others. Mr. Woodward could resign his official position as TEAM's manager and thereby persuade the Michigan court that he was no longer directing the company, while he continued to own TEAM and participate in TEAM's anti-Quixtar campaign.

As the deposition testimony of the former shareholders shows, the original shareholders of Sky Scope, including its president and director, were stand-ins for Mr. Woodward. They did not pay anything of value to obtain their shares in the company, did not receive any dividends or other compensation as shareholders, and did not receive anything of value when they handed over their shares to Mr. Woodward in February 2008. Their reward for their participation in Sky Scope was their continued participation as profit sharers within TEAM, Policy Council members, and senior management. This reward was significant. As the Michigan court found, Policy Council members earned between \$1 million and \$10 million annually from TEAM, and the Round Table members were among TEAM's top profit sharers. (Affidavit of James M. Schurz ("Schurz Aff."), Ex. 1 (Nov. 8, 2007 J. Sullivan Order) at 9.)³

Collectively, the evidence shows that Sky Scope "reached a unity of purpose or a common design and understanding" with Orrin Woodward, senior managers within TEAM, TEAM Policy Council members, and leading profit sharers to pursue their collective campaign to raid Quixtar's IBOs, disparage Quixtar, and misappropriate Quixtar's trade secrets. *Gilbrook*, 177 F.3d at 856. The fact that Mr. Woodward abruptly stepped down as manager of TEAM at a time when he needed the company to further TEAM's anti-Quixtar campaign, coupled with proof of Sky Scope's leaders' acquiescence in his instructions and Sky Scope's ability to provide cover, is strong evidence that Sky Scope and its original shareholders agreed to shield Mr. Woodward's involvement in TEAM to enable the parties to evade the Michigan injunction. Sky Scope's motion for summary judgment should be denied.

II. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL FACTS WHICH PRECLUDE ENTRY OF SUMMARY JUDGMENT⁴

A. TEAM's Leaders Are Terminated as Quixtar IBOs

In 2007, Quixtar approached TEAM's leaders, who at that time were all Quixtar IBOs, to address their serious breaches of the Quixtar Rules of Conduct. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 2 (Declaration of Gary Vander Ven) at ¶ 31.) Quixtar organized a meeting with TEAM's top leaders on August 9, 2007 to discuss a plan for remediating their misconduct. (*Id.*) Instead of working with Quixtar to resolve the issues, TEAM's leaders used the meeting to announce TEAM's intention to break off from Quixtar. (*Id.*) This plan had been in development for some time. They demanded that Quixtar waive the non-compete and non-solicitation provisions in their IBO agreements, making it clear that they intended to solicit thousands of other IBOs to leave Quixtar and join TEAM in working for a competitor. (*Id.*) Further, TEAM's leaders threatened that if Quixtar did not forfeit its rights under the IBO agreements, they would immediately launch an all-out legal and public relations campaign against Quixtar. (*Id.*)

Quixtar did not agree to waive its protections under the agreements and instead terminated the TEAM leaders' IBO contracts. (*Id.* at ¶ 32.) Within a few hours, Mr. Woodward and other TEAM leaders filed the class action lawsuit they had threatened, which turned out to be the first in a series of lawsuits by Mr. Woodward's associates targeting Quixtar in state and federal courts all over the country. (*Id.*; see also TEAM, Ex. 30.) Within days, TEAM's public relations firm unleashed TEAM's multimedia public relations assault on Quixtar, which included unveiling a website entitled "Free The IBO." (Schurz Aff., Ex. 3 (Declaration of Margaret Ross) at ¶ 3.) TEAM posted numerous false and disparaging statements about Quixtar on the Free The IBO website in an effort to convince IBO readers to leave Quixtar and join TEAM. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 4 (excerpt from Free The IBO Website.)

⁴ A comprehensive statement of facts is included in Quixtar's Opposition to TEAM's Motion for Summary Judgment, filed July 21, 2010, which is incorporated by reference. The present statement of facts focuses on those facts pertinent to Sky Scope's motion.

B. The Michigan Court Enjoins Woodward and Brady from Disparaging Quixtar and Soliciting Its IBOs

Pursuant to the arbitration provision in its IBO agreements, Quixtar filed a demand for arbitration with JAMS against Mr. Woodward, TEAM's co-founder Chris Brady, and others on August 10, 2007. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 5 (Aug. 24, 2007 J. Sullivan Order) at 2.) Quixtar also filed a lawsuit seeking injunctive relief in aid of arbitration in Michigan State Court, Kent County, before the Honorable Paul J. Sullivan, *Quixtar Inc. v. Woodward et al.*, No. 07-08413-CK. (*Id.*)

On August 10, Judge Sullivan entered a TRO prohibiting Woodward and Brady from, among other things, "[u]sing their Quixtar Line of Sponsorship ["LOS"] to sell, distribute, or promote competing products"; "[e]ncouraging, soliciting, or otherwise attempting to recruit or persuade any other IBO to compete with Quixtar's business"; and "[d]isparaging Quixtar, or otherwise engaging in activities injurious to the reputation of Quixtar." (Schurz Aff., Ex. 6 (Aug. 10, 2007 J. Sullivan Order) at 2.) Under the Michigan Rules of Court, the TRO was binding not only upon Woodward and Brady, but also upon "those persons in active concert or participation" with them. MCR 3.310(C)(4). Judge Sullivan then set a preliminary injunction hearing for August 22, 2007. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 6, at 3.) Ultimately, on August 24, 2007, Judge Sullivan converted the TRO into a preliminary injunction (the "Sullivan Order"). (Schurz Aff., Ex. 5.)

C. Quixtar Moves to Have Woodward, Brady and TEAM Held in Contempt of the TRO

Four days after Judge Sullivan entered the August 10, 2007 TRO, Quixtar moved to have Woodward, Brady and TEAM held in contempt for violating it. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 7 (Brief in Support of Ex Parte Motion for Order to Show Cause).) Quixtar argued that Woodward and Brady controlled TEAM and were using TEAM to violate the TRO. (*Id.* at 6-7.) Specifically, Quixtar argued that TEAM had posted disparaging statements about Quixtar on the TEAM website and had used Quixtar's confidential and trade secret information to solicit its IBOs. (*Id.* at 4-6.) Quixtar argued that because the TRO was binding on persons acting in "active concert or

participation" with the enjoined parties, TEAM, Woodward, and Brady were all violating the TRO. (Id.)⁵

D. Sky Scope Enables the Group to Evade the TRO and Preliminary Injunction
Faced with the threat that the court would find TEAM in contempt of the TRO,
Mr. Woodward needed to be able to show that even though he was TEAM's manager, TEAM

was not acting "in concert" with him. At the same time, since he was enjoined from carrying out the anti-Quixtar campaign himself, he needed TEAM, its Policy Council and TEAM leaders to

move ahead with the group's action plan.

Sky Scope was the solution. Sky Scope owned 100% of TEAM. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 8 (TEAM's Second Supplemental Answers to Plaintiff's First Interrogatories (Nos. 1, 6, 8(iii)) to Defendant Signature Management TEAM, L.L.C.) at 11-12.) In turn, the people with the ability to control Sky Scope, i.e. its president, secretary, treasurer and director, as well as all of its shareholders, were leading profit sharers of TEAM and loyal followers of Mr. Woodward. They included TEAM CEO Bob Dickie, TEAM CFO Rob Hallstrand, and other members of TEAM's Policy Council and Round Table leadership. (Id. at 13.) Each of the Sky Scope shareholders had a financial interest in the success of TEAM and the anti-Quixtar campaign. (See Schurz Aff. Ex. 9 (D. Freeze Tr. 10/8/08) at 123:14-16 (Freeze was a Policy Council member); Ex. 10 (J. Granger Tr. 1/9/09) at 72:13-22 (Round Table member); Ex. 11 (J. Morgan Tr. 1/2/09) at 33:5-10 (Round Table member); Ex. 12 (G. Guzzardo Tr. 12/30/08) at 53:15-20 (Policy Council member); and Ex. 13 (J. McGuire Tr. 3/20/09) at 17:22-18:2 (Round Table Member).) And as shown below in Section IV.B.1, these Woodward loyalists willingly complied with the role they were assigned in shielding Mr. Woodward's interest and participation in Sky Scope and TEAM. (Ex. 9-13.) With the acquiescence of Sky Scope's leaders, Mr. Woodward could dissociate himself from TEAM on paper while retaining his control in TEAM's operations from behind the

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⁵ Quixtar withdrew its motion for contempt on August 23 and re-filed it a few weeks later, on September 21, 2007. The Michigan court held a three day evidentiary hearing in October and issued its ruling on November 8, 2007. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 1.)

1 scenes. Mr. Woodward therefore abruptly resigned his position as TEAM's manager. (Schurz 2 Aff., Ex. 8 at 11.) 3 In October 2007, the Michigan court held a three day hearing on Ouixtar's motion to find 4 Woodward, Brady and TEAM in contempt for violating the Sullivan Order. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 1 5 (Nov. 8, 2007 J. Sullivan Order) at 2.) It was at this hearing that Sky Scope's agreement to hide Mr. Woodward's ownership interest in and control over TEAM became a critical factor in the 6 7 conspiracy: it enabled Mr. Woodward to testify under oath that he was not the owner of TEAM, 8 to claim that he had no legal relationship to the company, and, ultimately, to argue that TEAM 9 was not acting "in concert" with him: 10 Q. Are you still an owner in TEAM? 11 A. No. 12 13 O. You never owned TEAM? 14 A. Hmm-mm. 15 Q. Who did? 16 A. There were — it's an LLC, Signature Management Team is an LLC and it's owned by six C-corps. 17 Q. Do you own those C-corps? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Who does? 20 A. Many different individuals. I really don't — I don't know 'em 21 all. 22 Q. Do you have an ownership in any entity that has an ownership interest in TEAM? 23 A. No. 24 Q. Do you know who does? 25 A. (No verbal response). 26 27 Q. What's your current relationship with TEAM? 28

Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant Sky Scope's Motion for Summary Judgment Case No. $3:07\hbox{-cv-}00505$ sf-2861878

A. Basically, I don't have any legal relationship. I do have, obviously, a lot of friends, a lot of relationships that are built over the years.

(Schurz Aff., Ex. 14 (Tr. Oct. 16, 2007 at 9:13-13:13 (emphasis added)).) Based on this testimony, and applying the "clear and unequivocal evidence" standard that applies to motions for contempt (*see* Schurz Aff., Ex. 15 (Tr. 10/17/07 at 225:14-19)), the Michigan court found that Mr. Woodward was not a policy maker for TEAM and that there was no violation of the injunction:

The Court finds particularly noteworthy the steps that both Mr. Orrin Woodward and TEAM took to make a good faith effort to comply with the preliminary injunction. Following his termination from Quixtar and the entry of the order, Mr. Woodward resigned both as a manager of TEAM, as well as being a member of the policy council. These resignations removed Mr. Woodward as an authority in a policy-making position for the organization[.]

(Schurz Aff., Ex. 1 at 3 (emphasis added).)

In reality, however, Mr. Woodward was never removed as "an authority in a policy-making position" for TEAM at all. The testimony of Sky Scope's "authorities in a policy-making position" shows that they willingly implemented Mr. Woodward's instructions. (Schurz Aff. Ex. 9-13.) They did so because Mr. Woodward held the unrestricted right under the terms of the shareholder agreements to purchase all shares of its stock for a nominal \$1.00 per share. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 16 (stock option agreements).) Mr. Woodward continued to exert control over TEAM through the agreement he had reached with Sky Scope's and TEAM's leaders.

III. SUMMARY JUDGMENT STANDARD

A court may not grant summary judgment unless the moving party establishes that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c); Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). The court must make all justifiable inferences in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party — here, Quixtar. Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp. 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986). Further, questions involving state of mind, such as whether a person agreed to join a conspiracy, "are generally factual issues inappropriate for resolution by summary judgment." Mendocino Envtl. Ctr., 192 F.3d at 1302 (citing Braxton-Secret v. Robins Co., 769 F.2d 528, 531 (9th Cir.

1985)). Even if different inferences might reasonably be drawn from the evidence, this "does not justify judicial intrusion into the jury's role in determining whether a civil conspiracy existed." *Id.* at 1303 (citations omitted). Thus, so long as a finder of fact *could* conclude from the evidence that Sky Scope agreed upon and entered a conspiracy with Woodward, TEAM and the others, summary judgment is not appropriate.

IV. ARGUMENT

The First Amended Complaint alleges that Sky Scope conspired with TEAM, Mr. Woodward, and others to harm Quixtar, and that Sky Scope is therefore liable for all the harm that the conspiracy caused. Sky Scope fails to address the conspiracy allegations, let alone establish that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that it is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Summary judgment must be denied on that basis alone. In any event, there is strong evidence from which a jury could conclude that Sky Scope participated in the conspiracy. Accordingly, Sky Scope is not entitled to summary judgment.

A. To Survive Summary Judgment, Quixtar Need Only Show Circumstantial Evidence from Which a Jury Could Conclude that Sky Scope Agreed to the Conspiracy

Under Michigan law, an actionable civil conspiracy consists of "an agreement between two or more persons to injure another by unlawful action." *Spadafore v. Gardner*, 330 F.3d 849, 854 (6th Cir. 2003) (quoting *Hooks v. Hooks*, 771 F.2d 935, 943-44 (6th Cir. 1985)). It is not necessary that there be an express agreement among the conspirators, and each conspirator does not need to have known all of the details of the plan or all of the participants. *Id.* Rather, "[a]ll that must be shown is that there was a single plan, that the alleged coconspirator shared in the

shared the common objective of the conspiracy. See Mendocino Envil. Ctr., 192 F.3d at 1301.

⁶ Nevada law is similar in that an actionable civil conspiracy "consists of a combination of two or more persons who, by some concerted action, intend to accomplish an unlawful objective for the purpose of harming another, and damage results from the act or acts." *Consol. Generator-Nev., Inc. v. Cummins Engine Co.*, 114 Nev. 1304, 1311, 971 P.2d 1251, 1256 (1998) (quoting *Hilton Hotels v. Butch Lewis Prods.*, 109 Nev. 1043, 1048, 862 P.2d 1207, 1210 (1993)). Further, the plaintiff must demonstrate the existence of "an agreement or meeting of the minds" to accomplish the unlawful act. *United Steelworkers of Am. v. Phelps Dodge Corp.*, 865 F.2d 1539, 1540-41 (9th Cir. 1989) (en banc) (citation omitted). The plaintiff does *not* need to show that each participant in the conspiracy knew the exact details of the plan, but only that each

general conspiratorial objective, and that an overt act was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy that caused injury to the complainant." *Id*.

A civil conspiracy claim may be established by circumstantial evidence. *Temborius v. Slatkin*, 157 Mich. App. 587, 599-600, 403 N.W.2d 821, 827-28 (1986). For summary judgment purposes, "the question whether an agreement exists should not be taken from the jury in a civil conspiracy case so long as there is a possibility that the jury can infer from the circumstances [that the alleged conspirators] had a meeting of the minds and thus reached an understanding to achieve the conspiracy's objectives." *Robinson*, 883 F.2d 75, 1989 WL 94569, at *7 (internal citations omitted).⁷

The Complaint alleges that Sky Scope was part of a combination with Woodward, TEAM, and other members of the TEAM Policy Council that used unlawful means to harm Quixtar. (FAC ¶¶ 61, 102-105.) The evidence shows that (1) at the August 9 meeting, Woodward, Brady and other TEAM leaders asked Quixtar to waive its non-compete and non-solicitation obligations; (2) the Michigan court enjoined Mr. Woodward and those acting in concert with him from soliciting any IBOs; (3) Mr. Woodward abruptly resigned his official position as the manager of TEAM; (4) Sky Scope was the sole owner of TEAM at the time; and (5) as detailed below, Sky Scope's officers and shareholders implemented Mr. Woodward's instructions and objectives and those of the conspiracy.

The conspirators memorialized their plan to raid Quixtar's IBOs in a memorandum that laid out a detailed plan for (Schurz Aff., Ex. 17 (memorandum by

The Ninth Circuit has a similar standard - the agreement need not be overt; a defendant's knowledge of and participation in the conspiracy may be inferred from circumstantial evidence and evidence of its actions. *Gilbrook*, 177 F.3d at 856-57; see also Mendocino Envtl. Ctr., 192 F.3d at 1302 (noting that direct evidence of an agreement "will only rarely be available" and that "it will almost always be necessary to infer such agreements from circumstantial evidence or the existence of joint action"). "For example, a showing that the alleged conspirators have committed acts that 'are unlikely to have been undertaken without an agreement' may allow a jury to infer the existence of a conspiracy." Mendocino Envtl. Ctr., 192 F.3d at 1301 (citation omitted).

).)⁸ The memorandum

It further cautioned: "

Most importantly (in light of the Sullivan Order), the memorandum warned,

This is exactly what the conspirators did — with the agreement of Sky Scope.

shows that Sky

Scope's participation was necessary to

The evidence is sufficient to preclude summary judgment. A jury could find from these facts that Sky Scope agreed to join the conspiracy and provided the means through which its coconspirators continued the anti-Quixtar campaign without triggering a contempt ruling. Mr. Woodward's purported act of abandoning his leadership role in TEAM was illusory and was "unlikely to have been undertaken without an agreement" with Sky Scope and TEAM to implement the objectives of the conspiracy. *Mendocino Envil. Ctr.*, 192 F.3d at 1301 (citation omitted). Thus, even if other inferences could be drawn, summary judgment would not be appropriate here. *Id.* at 1303.

B. Sky Scope's Deference to Mr. Woodward's Instructions Is Strong Circumstantial Evidence That Sky Scope Conspired to Shield His Involvement in TEAM

The evidence all points to the conclusion that even though the names of Mr. Woodward's friends were on Sky Scope's corporate documents and shares, these nominal shareholders willingly implemented whatever instructions Mr. Woodward gave them with respect to the company. This, coupled with Mr. Woodward and TEAM's leaders' need to shield

⁸ The "The "memorandum is discussed in more detail in Quixtar's Opposition to TEAM's Motion for Summary Judgment, filed July 21, 2010.

Mr. Woodward's involvement in TEAM from the Michigan court, is strong circumstantial evidence that Sky Scope agreed to participate in the conspiracy.

- 1. The Testimony of Sky Scope's Officers and Shareholders Establishes That They Willingly Complied with Direction from Orrin Woodward and Thus Conspired with Him.
 - a. Testimony of TEAM Round Table Member and Sky Scope "President" Donald Freeze.

TEAM Round Table member Donald Freeze was not only a shareholder in Sky Scope but was also, according to the company's corporate documents, its president, secretary, treasurer and director, from the time of its inception in 2003 until February of 2008. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 18 (Initial and Annual List of Sky Scope's Officers, Directors and Resident Agent from 2003 through 2008).) Even though he purportedly held every position of control within the company, Mr. Freeze testified that he had no role in Sky Scope's business. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 9 at 267:17-21 ("Q. Other than signing the paperwork for the initial incorporation of Sky Scope TEAM, Inc., did you ever personally have any responsibilities, whatsoever, with regard to that entity? A. No, I did not.").) Indeed, he lacked basic knowledge about the company's business operations. (Id. at 267:25-268:3 ("O. And to your knowledge, did Sky Scope Team, Inc. ever do any business other than simply owning part of Signature Management Team, LLC? A. I, I don't know.").) Further, Mr. Freeze testified that his wife served as director of one of the other five companies that merged into Sky Scope, but like Mr. Freeze, she had no substantive role in the company she purportedly directed. (Id. at 268:25-269:11.) From this testimony it is reasonable to infer that Mr. Freeze and the officers in Sky Scope and the other companies saw their role in the companies as merely a vehicle through which to implement TEAM's objectives.

Mr. Freeze also testified about his role as a purported shareholder of Sky Scope. He stated that the only reason he became a part owner of Sky Scope was that Mr. Woodward asked him to do so:

Q. [H]ow did you come to have an indirect ownership stake in Signature Management Team, LLC?

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1	A. Orrin asked me if I would be interested in, you know, representing — just owning one of the, the organizations they were
2	putting together.
3	• • • •
4 5	Q. Did Mr. Woodward explain to you why it was he wanted you to form an entity that would own part of Signature Management TEAM, LLC?
6	A. Not specifically. I think — I assumed the general strategy was, you know, like the Kennedys, they don't own anything.
7	••••
8	Q. So he just asked you to do it; he didn't tell you why?
9	A. Correct.
10	
11	Q. And you didn't ask him?
12	A. No.
13	Q. Did Mr. Woodward offer any incentive or inducement for you to, to do this?
14	A. No.
15	Q. Just asked you to do it as a favor?
16	A. Yes.
17	(Id. at 265:6-267:2.) Mr. Freeze then testified that when he was asked to sign paperwork in
18	February 2008 to transfer his shares of Sky Scope to Orrin Woodward, he did not know that he
19	was doing so. Rather, he thought that he and the other directors were resigning their "positions"
20	so as to streamline TEAM's corporate structure. Mr. Freeze, the purported president/director of
21	Sky Scope, simply signed where he was told and did not ask any questions:
22	Q. [H]ave you ever discussed with anyone that there was going to
23	be a document under which all of these entities that were transferred over to Orrin Woodward on February 1st, 2008, were
24	going to be merged together and end up by owning Signature Management Team, LLC?
25	A. I was never told that. I assumed when we signed these, taking these, the last documents to which we referred —
26	
27	Q. Yeah.
28	A. —this, that we're not going to be doing this anymore, right?

Q. Yeah. 1 A. We resigned our positions. I assumed that there was a — you 2 know, they were going to streamline the corporate structure of the 3 Team, that's all. (Id. at 276:5-20.) Mr. Freeze's testimony establishes that even though he was the official head of 4 Sky Scope, he had no responsibilities in connection with that role, had no knowledge of the 5 company's business (or even if it had any business), thought that he had a position, rather than 6 ownership interest, in the company, and only agreed to sign the paperwork and hold the official 7 titles as a favor to Mr. Woodward. In other words, his entire role in Sky Scope as its president, 8 secretary, treasurer and director, as well as shareholder, was to do what TEAM and 9 Mr. Woodward asked. This is strong circumstantial evidence that Sky Scope had a "meeting of 10 the minds" with Woodward, TEAM, and the others, to further the group's unlawful plans. 11 Testimony of TEAM Round Table Member Jeff Granger. 12 b. TEAM Policy Council member Jeff Granger also testified that his role as a shareholder in 13 Sky Scope and the other corporations was solely to do a favor for Woodward and to further 14 TEAM's objectives. His relationship to the companies was so limited that he did not even know 15 which companies they were: 16 17 Q. How is it that you didn't know which corporations you owned stock in? 18 A. We were asked if we would be open to owning some stocks 19 in some corporations that Orrin owned. So, I said yeah, no problem. So they assigned some stock to me. 20 Q. Who asked you that? 21 A. Rob Hallstrand. 22 O. Did he say why he was asking you to do that? 23 A. He — at that point, this was I don't know how many years ago, 24 he had asked if it came from Orrin, you know, and it was — he just said it was just a paper thing for some of the corporations that 25 he had and he wanted to put people on there that he trusted and asked if I would do it. So I did. 26 (Schurz Aff., Ex. 10 at 274:12-275:7 (emphasis added).) Mr. Granger further testified that he did 27 not pay any money to acquire the stock (id. at 275:10-13), and that he did not receive any 28 PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY SCOPE'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT Case No. 3:07-cv-00505

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1	payment of any kind in connection with his ownership of the stock, either in the form of a				
2	dividend when he was a shareholder or upon transferring the stock to Mr. Woodward in February				
3	2008 (id. at 276:2-10 and 276:18-277:4 ("I was like, yeah, no problem. Let me get my name off				
4	of there. I don't care. Didn't matter to me, anyway I couldn't have told you if it was one or				
5	six or 20 [corporations]. I mean, there was multiple things that I signed. I don't know what the				
6	names even were on them.").) Finally, Mr. Granger testified that he had no role in the company:				
7 8	Q. When you owned the stock, were you — did you have any responsibilities with regard to this company?				
9	A. None whatsoever.				
10	(Id. at 276:5-7.) In short, Mr. Granger's testimony confirms that he, and inferentially, the other				
11	shareholders in Sky Scope, were owners in name only, and that ultimately decision-making rested				
12	with Mr. Woodward.				
13	c. Testimony of TEAM Round Table Member John Morgan.				
14	TEAM Round Table member John Morgan testified that beyond not having any role as a				
15	purported owner of Sky Scope, he did not even know that he was an owner of Sky Scope and,				
16	through it, TEAM:				
17 18	Q. Did you know that you were an owner of six Nevada corporations who owned TEAM?				
19	A. No, I guess I didn't know that.				
20	Q. Did you know that you had some sort of ownership interest in TEAM?				
21 22	A. No. I knew I had an officer — at least that's what I understood, I was an officer, but I didn't know I had any ownership in it.				
23	[]				
24	Q. Until I showed this to you today did you know that you were an owner of TEAM?				
25	A. No.				
26					
27	Q. You held a very significant share of the entire TEAM organization.				
28					

1	A. Huh.
2	(Schurz Aff., Ex. 11 at 139:24-144:8.) It is unsurprising, then, that Mr. Morgan also testified that
3	he did not pay anything for his shares or receive anything when he returned his shares. (Id. at
4	146:19-147:4.) Mr. Morgan further testified that when he signed papers giving away his interest
5	in Sky Scope, he was not aware that he was doing so. (Id. at 143:18-144:8.) Finally, Mr. Morgar
6	testified that his sole role in the six corporations was to serve as Mr. Woodward's "good friend":
7	Q. Other than signing papers that Mr. Hallstrand sent you, did you perform any other duties in connection with your either ownership or officer role in any of these companies?
9	A. No.
10	Q. And other than what you've testified to with respect to what
11	Mr. Woodward told you, did anyone ever explain to you the purpose of these corporations?
12	A. No.
13	••••
14 15	Q. Did Mr. Woodward indicate in any way why he had selected you as someone to be involved in the Nevada corporations among the many, many other people on TEAM?
16	A. Just that he trusted me, good friend.
17	(Id. at 146:4-147:16.) Mr. Morgan's testimony is further circumstantial evidence that the
18	shareholders of Sky Scope and the other entities acted in concert with Mr. Woodward and thus
19	conspired with him.
20	d. Testimony of TEAM Policy Council Member George Guzzardo
21	Mr. Guzzardo similarly testified that he had never heard of Sky Scope or any of the five
22	companies that merged into it. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 12 at 212:8-213:2.) Mr. Guzzardo then testified
23	that he did not know that he had ever owned TEAM, and he did not know if he presently had any
24	ownership of that company or of Sky Scope:
25 26	Q. Do you have an ownership interest in TEAM?
26 27	A. I just know there's a possibility I might have some.
28	

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17		
18	QUIXTAR INC.,	Case No. 3:07-cv-00505
19	Plaintiff,	PLAINTIFF QUIXTAR INC.'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY
20	v.	SCOPE TEAM, INC.'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
21	SIGNATURE MANAGEMENT TEAM, LLC d/b/a TEAM, and SKY SCOPE TEAM, INC.,	REDACTED
22	Defendants.	
23		
24		
25		,
26		
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	PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY SCOPE'S MOCASE No. 3:07-cv-00505 sf-2861878	TION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

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	PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY SCOPE'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT Case No. 3:07-cv-00505 sf-2861878

Plaintiff Quixtar Inc. ("Quixtar") opposes defendant Sky Scope Team, Inc.'s ("Sky Scope") Motion for Summary Judgment, Dkt. No. 553.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sky Scope argues that it is entitled to summary judgment because there is no evidence of it directly committing any of the tortious acts alleged in the First Amended Complaint ("FAC"), and it is not liable either as the owner of defendant Signature Management TEAM, LLC ("TEAM") or under an agency theory. But Sky Scope ignores the alternative basis for liability: that Sky Scope "agreed upon and entered into a conspiracy" with TEAM, its co-founder Orrin Woodward, and other TEAM leaders to harm Quixtar and destroy its business. (FAC, ¶ 102.) To prove conspiracy, Quixtar need only show that Sky Scope "reached a unity of purpose or a common design and understanding, or a meeting of the minds in an unlawful arrangement," with other members. Gilbrook v. City of Westminster, 177 F.3d 839, 856 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal citation omitted); In re Nw. Airlines Corp. Antitrust Litig., 208 F.R.D. 174, 199 (E.D. Mich. 2002) (evaluating antitrust conspiracy claim). Sky Scope's motion turns on a narrow issue: if there are any disputed facts from which a jury could conclude that Sky Scope conspired with TEAM, Orrin Woodward, and other TEAM leaders, then Sky Scope's motion must be denied.

Here, the evidence shows that Sky Scope played a key role in TEAM's conspiracy to raid Quixtar's Independent Business Owner distributors ("IBOs") and misappropriate its trade secrets during the second half of 2007 and early 2008. At the very least, the evidence shows that there is a factual dispute over Sky Scope's involvement. The Ninth Circuit has recognized that questions involving state of mind, such as whether a person agreed to join a conspiracy, "are generally factual issues inappropriate for resolution by summary judgment." *Mendocino Envtl. Ctr. v. Mendocino Cnty*, 192 F.3d 1283, 1302 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal citation omitted). The Sixth Circuit has similarly held that for summary judgment purposes, "the question whether an

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Pursuant to Local Rule 56-1, Quixtar provides detailed responses to Sky Scope's separate concise statement of facts in a chart attached as Ex. A. Those responses, and the facts set forth in this Opposition, demonstrate that there are genuine issues of material disputed fact which preclude summary judgment.

agreement exists should not be taken from the jury in a civil conspiracy case so long as there is a possibility that the jury can infer from the circumstances [that the alleged conspirators] had a meeting of the minds and thus reached an understanding to achieve the conspiracy's objectives." *Robinson v. Twp. of Waterford*, 883 F.2d 75, 1989 WL 94569, at *7 (6th Cir. Aug. 18, 1989) (internal citations omitted). The factual dispute regarding Sky Scope's role in the conspiracy precludes summary judgment.

Sky Scope became a necessary co-conspirator with Mr. Woodward, TEAM, and other TEAM leaders because in August 2007, a Michigan state court issued an injunction expressly prohibiting Mr. Woodward from engaging in conduct directly at issue in this case, *i.e.*, disparaging Quixtar, misappropriating its trade secrets, and soliciting its IBOs. Under Michigan law, the injunction also enjoined anyone acting in concert with Mr. Woodward from committing those acts. Mr. Woodward therefore was precluded from openly directing TEAM, the company he managed, in carrying out TEAM's raid on Quixtar's IBOs without risking that the Michigan court would find him and/or TEAM in violation of the injunction. In response to the injunction, Mr. Woodward was forced to resign as manager of TEAM.

Sky Scope provided the means by which Mr. Woodward could, together with TEAM, its leaders, profit sharers and senior management, still help direct the campaign against Quixtar.

Mr. Woodward had previously set up six Nevada C corporations to jointly own 100% of TEAM.

Mr. Woodward then set up a small group of his closest allies, all of whom were top-level profit sharers in TEAM or within senior management of TEAM, as the sole shareholders of Sky Scope.

These shareholders constituted Mr. Woodward's "inner circle" and some of the key members in TEAM's conspiracy to harm Quixtar. Importantly, at the time the stock was issued, the new shareholders executed Stock Option Agreements with Mr. Woodward that granted

Mr. Woodward an unrestricted option to purchase all shares of Sky Scope for the nominal price

² In February 2008, the other five C corporations (Apollo Works Holdings, Inc.; Green Gemini Enterprises, Inc.; North Star Solutions, Inc.; Northern Lights Services, Inc.; and Sunset Resources, Inc.) merged into Sky Scope. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to "Sky Scope" include the five companies that merged into it.

of \$1.00 a share. In effect, the structure of Sky Scope ensured Mr. Woodward would retain ownership of TEAM and remain involved in TEAM and its operations while nominally TEAM was owned and operated by others. Mr. Woodward could resign his official position as TEAM's manager and thereby persuade the Michigan court that he was no longer directing the company, while he continued to own TEAM and participate in TEAM's anti-Quixtar campaign.

As the deposition testimony of the former shareholders shows, the original shareholders of Sky Scope, including its president and director, were stand-ins for Mr. Woodward. They did not pay anything of value to obtain their shares in the company, did not receive any dividends or other compensation as shareholders, and did not receive anything of value when they handed over their shares to Mr. Woodward in February 2008. Their reward for their participation in Sky Scope was their continued participation as profit sharers within TEAM, Policy Council members, and senior management. This reward was significant. As the Michigan court found, Policy Council members earned between \$1 million and \$10 million annually from TEAM, and the Round Table members were among TEAM's top profit sharers. (Affidavit of James M. Schurz ("Schurz Aff."), Ex. 1 (Nov. 8, 2007 J. Sullivan Order) at 9.)³

Collectively, the evidence shows that Sky Scope "reached a unity of purpose or a common design and understanding" with Orrin Woodward, senior managers within TEAM, TEAM Policy Council members, and leading profit sharers to pursue their collective campaign to raid Quixtar's IBOs, disparage Quixtar, and misappropriate Quixtar's trade secrets. *Gilbrook*, 177 F.3d at 856. The fact that Mr. Woodward abruptly stepped down as manager of TEAM at a time when he needed the company to further TEAM's anti-Quixtar campaign, coupled with proof of Sky Scope's leaders' acquiescence in his instructions and Sky Scope's ability to provide cover, is strong evidence that Sky Scope and its original shareholders agreed to shield Mr. Woodward's involvement in TEAM to enable the parties to evade the Michigan injunction. Sky Scope's motion for summary judgment should be denied.

³ The Schurz Affidavit is attached to this brief as Exhibit B.

II. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL FACTS WHICH PRECLUDE ENTRY OF SUMMARY JUDGMENT⁴

A. TEAM's Leaders Are Terminated as Quixtar IBOs

In 2007, Quixtar approached TEAM's leaders, who at that time were all Quixtar IBOs, to address their serious breaches of the Quixtar Rules of Conduct. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 2 (Declaration of Gary Vander Ven) at ¶ 31.) Quixtar organized a meeting with TEAM's top leaders on August 9, 2007 to discuss a plan for remediating their misconduct. (*Id.*) Instead of working with Quixtar to resolve the issues, TEAM's leaders used the meeting to announce TEAM's intention to break off from Quixtar. (*Id.*) This plan had been in development for some time. They demanded that Quixtar waive the non-compete and non-solicitation provisions in their IBO agreements, making it clear that they intended to solicit thousands of other IBOs to leave Quixtar and join TEAM in working for a competitor. (*Id.*) Further, TEAM's leaders threatened that if Quixtar did not forfeit its rights under the IBO agreements, they would immediately launch an all-out legal and public relations campaign against Quixtar. (*Id.*)

Quixtar did not agree to waive its protections under the agreements and instead terminated the TEAM leaders' IBO contracts. (*Id.* at ¶ 32.) Within a few hours, Mr. Woodward and other TEAM leaders filed the class action lawsuit they had threatened, which turned out to be the first in a series of lawsuits by Mr. Woodward's associates targeting Quixtar in state and federal courts all over the country. (*Id.*; see also TEAM, Ex. 30.) Within days, TEAM's public relations firm unleashed TEAM's multimedia public relations assault on Quixtar, which included unveiling a website entitled "Free The IBO." (Schurz Aff., Ex. 3 (Declaration of Margaret Ross) at ¶ 3.) TEAM posted numerous false and disparaging statements about Quixtar on the Free The IBO website in an effort to convince IBO readers to leave Quixtar and join TEAM. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 4 (excerpt from Free The IBO Website.)

⁴ A comprehensive statement of facts is included in Quixtar's Opposition to TEAM's Motion for Summary Judgment, filed July 21, 2010, which is incorporated by reference. The present statement of facts focuses on those facts pertinent to Sky Scope's motion.

B. The Michigan Court Enjoins Woodward and Brady from Disparaging Quixtar and Soliciting Its IBOs

Pursuant to the arbitration provision in its IBO agreements, Quixtar filed a demand for arbitration with JAMS against Mr. Woodward, TEAM's co-founder Chris Brady, and others on August 10, 2007. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 5 (Aug. 24, 2007 J. Sullivan Order) at 2.) Quixtar also filed a lawsuit seeking injunctive relief in aid of arbitration in Michigan State Court, Kent County, before the Honorable Paul J. Sullivan, *Quixtar Inc. v. Woodward et al.*, No. 07-08413-CK. (*Id.*)

On August 10, Judge Sullivan entered a TRO prohibiting Woodward and Brady from, among other things, "[u]sing their Quixtar Line of Sponsorship ["LOS"] to sell, distribute, or promote competing products"; "[e]ncouraging, soliciting, or otherwise attempting to recruit or persuade any other IBO to compete with Quixtar's business"; and "[d]isparaging Quixtar, or otherwise engaging in activities injurious to the reputation of Quixtar." (Schurz Aff., Ex. 6 (Aug. 10, 2007 J. Sullivan Order) at 2.) Under the Michigan Rules of Court, the TRO was binding not only upon Woodward and Brady, but also upon "those persons in active concert or participation" with them. MCR 3.310(C)(4). Judge Sullivan then set a preliminary injunction hearing for August 22, 2007. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 6, at 3.) Ultimately, on August 24, 2007, Judge Sullivan converted the TRO into a preliminary injunction (the "Sullivan Order"). (Schurz Aff., Ex. 5.)

C. Quixtar Moves to Have Woodward, Brady and TEAM Held in Contempt of the TRO

Four days after Judge Sullivan entered the August 10, 2007 TRO, Quixtar moved to have Woodward, Brady and TEAM held in contempt for violating it. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 7 (Brief in Support of Ex Parte Motion for Order to Show Cause).) Quixtar argued that Woodward and Brady controlled TEAM and were using TEAM to violate the TRO. (*Id.* at 6-7.) Specifically, Quixtar argued that TEAM had posted disparaging statements about Quixtar on the TEAM website and had used Quixtar's confidential and trade secret information to solicit its IBOs. (*Id.* at 4-6.) Quixtar argued that because the TRO was binding on persons acting in "active concert or

participation" with the enjoined parties, TEAM, Woodward, and Brady were all violating the TRO. (Id.)⁵

D. Sky Scope Enables the Group to Evade the TRO and Preliminary Injunction

Faced with the threat that the court would find TEAM in contempt of the TRO, Mr. Woodward needed to be able to show that even though he was TEAM's manager, TEAM was not acting "in concert" with him. At the same time, since he was enjoined from carrying out the anti-Quixtar campaign himself, he needed TEAM, its Policy Council and TEAM leaders to move ahead with the group's action plan.

Sky Scope was the solution. Sky Scope owned 100% of TEAM. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 8 (TEAM's Second Supplemental Answers to Plaintiff's First Interrogatories (Nos. 1, 6, 8(iii)) to Defendant Signature Management TEAM, L.L.C.) at 11-12.) In turn, the people with the ability to control Sky Scope, i.e. its president, secretary, treasurer and director, as well as all of its shareholders, were leading profit sharers of TEAM and loyal followers of Mr. Woodward. They included TEAM CEO Bob Dickie, TEAM CFO Rob Hallstrand, and other members of TEAM's Policy Council and Round Table leadership. (Id. at 13.) Each of the Sky Scope shareholders had a financial interest in the success of TEAM and the anti-Quixtar campaign. (See Schurz Aff. Ex. 9 (D. Freeze Tr. 10/8/08) at 123:14-16 (Freeze was a Policy Council member); Ex. 10 (J. Granger Tr. 1/9/09) at 72:13-22 (Round Table member); Ex. 11 (J. Morgan Tr. 1/2/09) at 33:5-10 (Round Table member); Ex. 12 (G. Guzzardo Tr. 12/30/08) at 53:15-20 (Policy Council member); and Ex. 13 (J. McGuire Tr. 3/20/09) at 17:22-18:2 (Round Table Member).) And as shown below in Section IV.B.1, these Woodward loyalists willingly complied with the role they were assigned in shielding Mr. Woodward's interest and participation in Sky Scope and TEAM. (Ex. 9-13.) With the acquiescence of Sky Scope's leaders, Mr. Woodward could dissociate himself from TEAM on paper while retaining his control in TEAM's operations from behind the

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⁵ Quixtar withdrew its motion for contempt on August 23 and re-filed it a few weeks later, on September 21, 2007. The Michigan court held a three day evidentiary hearing in October and issued its ruling on November 8, 2007. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 1.)

1 scenes. Mr. Woodward therefore abruptly resigned his position as TEAM's manager. (Schurz 2 Aff., Ex. 8 at 11.) 3 In October 2007, the Michigan court held a three day hearing on Quixtar's motion to find 4 Woodward, Brady and TEAM in contempt for violating the Sullivan Order. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 1 5 (Nov. 8, 2007 J. Sullivan Order) at 2.) It was at this hearing that Sky Scope's agreement to hide 6 Mr. Woodward's ownership interest in and control over TEAM became a critical factor in the 7 conspiracy: it enabled Mr. Woodward to testify under oath that he was not the owner of TEAM, 8 to claim that he had no legal relationship to the company, and, ultimately, to argue that TEAM 9 was not acting "in concert" with him: 10 Q. Are you still an owner in TEAM? 11 A. No. 12 13 Q. You never owned TEAM? 14 A. Hmm-mm. 15 Q. Who did? 16 A. There were — it's an LLC, Signature Management Team is an LLC and it's owned by six C-corps. 17 Q. Do you own those C-corps? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Who does? 20 A. Many different individuals. I really don't — I don't know 'em 21 all. 22 Q. Do you have an ownership in any entity that has an ownership interest in TEAM? 23 A. No. 24 Q. Do you know who does? 25 A. (No verbal response). 26 27 Q. What's your current relationship with TEAM? 28

PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY SCOPE'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT Case No. 3:07-cv-00505 sf-2861878

A. Basically, I don't have any legal relationship. I do have, obviously, a lot of friends, a lot of relationships that are built over the years.

(Schurz Aff., Ex. 14 (Tr. Oct. 16, 2007 at 9:13-13:13 (emphasis added)).) Based on this testimony, and applying the "clear and unequivocal evidence" standard that applies to motions for contempt (see Schurz Aff., Ex. 15 (Tr. 10/17/07 at 225:14-19)), the Michigan court found that Mr. Woodward was not a policy maker for TEAM and that there was no violation of the injunction:

The Court finds particularly noteworthy the steps that both Mr. Orrin Woodward and TEAM took to make a good faith effort to comply with the preliminary injunction. Following his termination from Quixtar and the entry of the order, Mr. Woodward resigned both as a manager of TEAM, as well as being a member of the policy council. These resignations removed Mr. Woodward as an authority in a policy-making position for the organization[.]

(Schurz Aff., Ex. 1 at 3 (emphasis added).)

In reality, however, Mr. Woodward was never removed as "an authority in a policy-making position" for TEAM at all. The testimony of Sky Scope's "authorities in a policy-making position" shows that they willingly implemented Mr. Woodward's instructions. (Schurz Aff. Ex. 9-13.) They did so because Mr. Woodward held the unrestricted right under the terms of the shareholder agreements to purchase all shares of its stock for a nominal \$1.00 per share. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 16 (stock option agreements).) Mr. Woodward continued to exert control over TEAM through the agreement he had reached with Sky Scope's and TEAM's leaders.

III. SUMMARY JUDGMENT STANDARD

A court may not grant summary judgment unless the moving party establishes that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c); Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). The court must make all justifiable inferences in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party—here, Quixtar. Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp. 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986). Further, questions involving state of mind, such as whether a person agreed to join a conspiracy, "are generally factual issues inappropriate for resolution by summary judgment." Mendocino Envtl. Ctr., 192 F.3d at 1302 (citing Braxton-Secret v. Robins Co., 769 F.2d 528, 531 (9th Cir.

1985)). Even if different inferences might reasonably be drawn from the evidence, this "does not justify judicial intrusion into the jury's role in determining whether a civil conspiracy existed." *Id.* at 1303 (citations omitted). Thus, so long as a finder of fact *could* conclude from the evidence that Sky Scope agreed upon and entered a conspiracy with Woodward, TEAM and the others, summary judgment is not appropriate.

IV. ARGUMENT

The First Amended Complaint alleges that Sky Scope conspired with TEAM, Mr. Woodward, and others to harm Quixtar, and that Sky Scope is therefore liable for all the harm that the conspiracy caused. Sky Scope fails to address the conspiracy allegations, let alone establish that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that it is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Summary judgment must be denied on that basis alone. In any event, there is strong evidence from which a jury could conclude that Sky Scope participated in the conspiracy. Accordingly, Sky Scope is not entitled to summary judgment.

A. To Survive Summary Judgment, Quixtar Need Only Show Circumstantial Evidence from Which a Jury Could Conclude that Sky Scope Agreed to the Conspiracy

Under Michigan law, an actionable civil conspiracy consists of "an agreement between two or more persons to injure another by unlawful action." *Spadafore v. Gardner*, 330 F.3d 849, 854 (6th Cir. 2003) (quoting *Hooks v. Hooks*, 771 F.2d 935, 943-44 (6th Cir. 1985)). It is not necessary that there be an express agreement among the conspirators, and each conspirator does not need to have known all of the details of the plan or all of the participants. *Id.* Rather, "[a]ll that must be shown is that there was a single plan, that the alleged coconspirator shared in the

⁶ Nevada law is similar in that an actionable civil conspiracy "consists of a combination of two or more persons who, by some concerted action, intend to accomplish an unlawful objective for the purpose of harming another, and damage results from the act or acts." *Consol. Generator-Nev., Inc. v. Cummins Engine Co.*, 114 Nev. 1304, 1311, 971 P.2d 1251, 1256 (1998) (quoting *Hilton Hotels v. Butch Lewis Prods.*, 109 Nev. 1043, 1048, 862 P.2d 1207, 1210 (1993)). Further, the plaintiff must demonstrate the existence of "an agreement or meeting of the minds" to accomplish the unlawful act. *United Steelworkers of Am. v. Phelps Dodge Corp.*, 865 F.2d 1539, 1540-41 (9th Cir. 1989) (en banc) (citation omitted). The plaintiff does *not* need to show that each participant in the conspiracy knew the exact details of the plan, but only that each shared the common objective of the conspiracy. *See Mendocino Envtl. Ctr.*, 192 F.3d at 1301.

general conspiratorial objective, and that an overt act was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy that caused injury to the complainant." *Id*.

A civil conspiracy claim may be established by circumstantial evidence. *Temborius v. Slatkin*, 157 Mich. App. 587, 599-600, 403 N.W.2d 821, 827-28 (1986). For summary judgment purposes, "the question whether an agreement exists should not be taken from the jury in a civil conspiracy case so long as there is a possibility that the jury can infer from the circumstances [that the alleged conspirators] had a meeting of the minds and thus reached an understanding to achieve the conspiracy's objectives." *Robinson*, 883 F.2d 75, 1989 WL 94569, at *7 (internal citations omitted).⁷

The Complaint alleges that Sky Scope was part of a combination with Woodward, TEAM, and other members of the TEAM Policy Council that used unlawful means to harm Quixtar. (FAC ¶¶ 61, 102-105.) The evidence shows that (1) at the August 9 meeting, Woodward, Brady and other TEAM leaders asked Quixtar to waive its non-compete and non-solicitation obligations; (2) the Michigan court enjoined Mr. Woodward and those acting in concert with him from soliciting any IBOs; (3) Mr. Woodward abruptly resigned his official position as the manager of TEAM; (4) Sky Scope was the sole owner of TEAM at the time; and (5) as detailed below, Sky Scope's officers and shareholders implemented Mr. Woodward's instructions and objectives and those of the conspiracy.

The conspirators memorialized their plan to raid Quixtar's IBOs in a memorandum that laid out a detailed plan for (Schurz Aff., Ex. 17 (memorandum by

⁷ The Ninth Circuit has a similar standard - the agreement need not be overt; a defendant's knowledge of and participation in the conspiracy may be inferred from circumstantial evidence and evidence of its actions. *Gilbrook*, 177 F.3d at 856-57; *see also Mendocino Envtl.* Ctr., 192 F.3d at 1302 (noting that direct evidence of an agreement "will only rarely be available" and that "it will almost always be necessary to infer such agreements from circumstantial evidence or the existence of joint action"). "For example, a showing that the alleged conspirators have committed acts that 'are unlikely to have been undertaken without an agreement' may allow a jury to infer the existence of a conspiracy." *Mendocino Envtl. Ctr.*, 192 F.3d at 1301 (citation omitted).

).)⁸ The memorandum

It further cautioned: "

Most importantly (in light of the Sullivan Order), the memorandum warned,

This is exactly what the conspirators did – with the agreement of Sky Scope.

shows that Sky

Scope's participation was necessary to

The evidence is sufficient to preclude summary judgment. A jury could find from these facts that Sky Scope agreed to join the conspiracy and provided the means through which its coconspirators continued the anti-Quixtar campaign without triggering a contempt ruling.

Mr. Woodward's purported act of abandoning his leadership role in TEAM was illusory and was "unlikely to have been undertaken without an agreement" with Sky Scope and TEAM to implement the objectives of the conspiracy. *Mendocino Envtl. Ctr.*, 192 F.3d at 1301 (citation omitted). Thus, even if other inferences could be drawn, summary judgment would not be appropriate here. *Id.* at 1303.

B. Sky Scope's Deference to Mr. Woodward's Instructions Is Strong Circumstantial Evidence That Sky Scope Conspired to Shield His Involvement in TEAM

The evidence all points to the conclusion that even though the names of Mr. Woodward's friends were on Sky Scope's corporate documents and shares, these nominal shareholders willingly implemented whatever instructions Mr. Woodward gave them with respect to the company. This, coupled with Mr. Woodward and TEAM's leaders' need to shield

⁸ The "**TEAM**'s Motion for Summary Judgment, filed July 21, 2010.

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Mr. Woodward's involvement in TEAM from the Michigan court, is strong circumstantial evidence that Sky Scope agreed to participate in the conspiracy.

- 1. The Testimony of Sky Scope's Officers and Shareholders Establishes That They Willingly Complied with Direction from Orrin Woodward and Thus Conspired with Him.
 - a. Testimony of TEAM Round Table Member and Sky Scope "President" Donald Freeze.

TEAM Round Table member Donald Freeze was not only a shareholder in Sky Scope but was also, according to the company's corporate documents, its president, secretary, treasurer and director, from the time of its inception in 2003 until February of 2008. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 18 (Initial and Annual List of Sky Scope's Officers, Directors and Resident Agent from 2003 through 2008).) Even though he purportedly held every position of control within the company, Mr. Freeze testified that he had no role in Sky Scope's business. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 9 at 267:17-21 ("Q. Other than signing the paperwork for the initial incorporation of Sky Scope TEAM, Inc., did you ever personally have any responsibilities, whatsoever, with regard to that entity? A. No, I did not.").) Indeed, he lacked basic knowledge about the company's business operations. (Id. at 267:25-268:3 ("Q. And to your knowledge, did Sky Scope Team, Inc. ever do any business other than simply owning part of Signature Management Team, LLC? A. I, I don't know.").) Further, Mr. Freeze testified that his wife served as director of one of the other five companies that merged into Sky Scope, but like Mr. Freeze, she had no substantive role in the company she purportedly directed. (Id. at 268:25-269:11.) From this testimony it is reasonable to infer that Mr. Freeze and the officers in Sky Scope and the other companies saw their role in the companies as merely a vehicle through which to implement TEAM's objectives.

Mr. Freeze also testified about his role as a purported shareholder of Sky Scope. He stated that the only reason he became a part owner of Sky Scope was that Mr. Woodward asked him to do so:

Q. [H]ow did you come to have an indirect ownership stake in Signature Management Team, LLC?

1 2	A. Orrin asked me if I would be interested in, you know, representing — just owning one of the, the organizations they were putting together.
3	••••
4	Q. Did Mr. Woodward explain to you why it was he wanted you to
5	form an entity that would own part of Signature Management TEAM, LLC?
6	A. Not specifically. I think — I assumed the general strategy was, you know, like the Kennedys, they don't own anything.
7	••••
8	Q. So he just asked you to do it; he didn't tell you why?
9	A. Correct.
10	Q. And you didn't ask him?
11	A. No,
12	Q. Did Mr. Woodward offer any incentive or inducement for you
13	to, to do this?
14	A. No.
15	Q. Just asked you to do it as a favor?
16	A. Yes.
17	(Id. at 265:6-267:2.) Mr. Freeze then testified that when he was asked to sign paperwork in
18	February 2008 to transfer his shares of Sky Scope to Orrin Woodward, he did not know that he
19	was doing so. Rather, he thought that he and the other directors were resigning their "positions"
20	so as to streamline TEAM's corporate structure. Mr. Freeze, the purported president/director of
21	Sky Scope, simply signed where he was told and did not ask any questions:
22	Q. [H]ave you ever discussed with anyone that there was going to be a document under which all of these entities that were
23	transferred over to Orrin Woodward on February 1st, 2008, were going to be merged together and end up by owning Signature
24	Management Team, LLC?
25	A. I was never told that. I assumed when we signed these, taking these, the last documents to which we referred —
26	Q. Yeah.
27	A. —this, that we're not going to be doing this anymore, right?
28	A. — this, that we to not going to be doing this anymore, right:

1 Q. Yeah. 2 A. We resigned our positions. I assumed that there was a — you know, they were going to streamline the corporate structure of the 3 Team, that's all. (Id. at 276:5-20.) Mr. Freeze's testimony establishes that even though he was the official head of 4 Sky Scope, he had no responsibilities in connection with that role, had no knowledge of the 5 company's business (or even if it had any business), thought that he had a position, rather than 6 ownership interest, in the company, and only agreed to sign the paperwork and hold the official 7 titles as a favor to Mr. Woodward. In other words, his entire role in Sky Scope as its president, 8 secretary, treasurer and director, as well as shareholder, was to do what TEAM and 9 Mr. Woodward asked. This is strong circumstantial evidence that Sky Scope had a "meeting of 10 the minds" with Woodward, TEAM, and the others, to further the group's unlawful plans. 11 Testimony of TEAM Round Table Member Jeff Granger. 12 TEAM Policy Council member Jeff Granger also testified that his role as a shareholder in 13 Sky Scope and the other corporations was solely to do a favor for Woodward and to further 14 TEAM's objectives. His relationship to the companies was so limited that he did not even know 15 which companies they were: 16 Q. How is it that you didn't know which corporations you owned 17 stock in? 18 A. We were asked if we would be open to owning some stocks in some corporations that Orrin owned. So, I said yeah, no 19 problem. So they assigned some stock to me. 20 Q. Who asked you that? 21 A. Rob Hallstrand. 22 Q. Did he say why he was asking you to do that? 23 A. He — at that point, this was I don't know how many years ago, he had asked if it came from Orrin, you know, and it was — he just 24 said it was just a paper thing for some of the corporations that he had and he wanted to put people on there that he trusted 25 and asked if I would do it. So I did. 26 (Schurz Aff., Ex. 10 at 274:12-275:7 (emphasis added).) Mr. Granger further testified that he did 27 not pay any money to acquire the stock (id. at 275:10-13), and that he did not receive any 28 PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY SCOPE'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

1	payment of any kind in connection with his ownership of the stock, either in the form of a			
2	dividend when he was a shareholder or upon transferring the stock to Mr. Woodward in February			
3	2008 (id. at 276:2-10 and 276:18-277:4 ("I was like, yeah, no problem. Let me get my name off			
4	of there. I don't care. Didn't matter to me, anyway I couldn't have told you if it was one or			
5	six or 20 [corporations]. I mean, there was multiple things that I signed. I don't know what the			
6	names even were on them.").) Finally, Mr. Granger testified that he had no role in the company:			
7	Q. When you owned the stock, were you — did you have any responsibilities with regard to this company?			
9	A. None whatsoever.			
10	(Id. at 276:5-7.) In short, Mr. Granger's testimony confirms that he, and inferentially, the other			
11	shareholders in Sky Scope, were owners in name only, and that ultimately decision-making rested			
12	with Mr. Woodward.			
13	c. Testimony of TEAM Round Table Member John Morgan.			
14	TEAM Round Table member John Morgan testified that beyond not having any role as a			
15	purported owner of Sky Scope, he did not even know that he was an owner of Sky Scope and,			
16	through it, TEAM:			
17 18	Q. Did you know that you were an owner of six Nevada corporations who owned TEAM?			
19	A. No, I guess I didn't know that.			
20	Q. Did you know that you had some sort of ownership interest in TEAM?			
21 22	A. No. I knew I had an officer — at least that's what I understood, I was an officer, but I didn't know I had any ownership in it.			
23	[]			
24	Q. Until I showed this to you today did you know that you were an owner of TEAM?			
25	A. No.			
26	••••			
27 28	Q. You held a very significant share of the entire TEAM organization.			
20				

1	A. Huh.
2	(Schurz Aff., Ex. 11 at 139:24-144:8.) It is unsurprising, then, that Mr. Morgan also testified that
3	he did not pay anything for his shares or receive anything when he returned his shares. (Id. at
4	146:19-147:4.) Mr. Morgan further testified that when he signed papers giving away his interest
5	in Sky Scope, he was not aware that he was doing so. (Id. at 143:18-144:8.) Finally, Mr. Morgan
6	testified that his sole role in the six corporations was to serve as Mr. Woodward's "good friend":
7	Q. Other than signing papers that Mr. Hallstrand sent you, did you perform any other duties in connection with your either ownership or officer role in any of these companies?
9	A. No.
10 11	Q. And other than what you've testified to with respect to what Mr. Woodward told you, did anyone ever explain to you the purpose of these corporations?
12	A. No.
13	
14 15	Q. Did Mr. Woodward indicate in any way why he had selected you as someone to be involved in the Nevada corporations among the many, many other people on TEAM?
16	A. Just that he trusted me, good friend.
17	(Id. at 146:4-147:16.) Mr. Morgan's testimony is further circumstantial evidence that the
18	shareholders of Sky Scope and the other entities acted in concert with Mr. Woodward and thus
19	conspired with him.
20	d. Testimony of TEAM Policy Council Member George Guzzardo
21	Mr. Guzzardo similarly testified that he had never heard of Sky Scope or any of the five
22	companies that merged into it. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 12 at 212:8-213:2.) Mr. Guzzardo then testified
23	that he did not know that he had ever owned TEAM, and he did not know if he presently had any
24	ownership of that company or of Sky Scope:
25	Q. Do you have an ownership interest in TEAM?
26	A. I just know there's a possibility I might have some.
27	
28	

1				
1	Q. Were you aware at least as of October 8, 2007 that you were an owner of a corporation that owned TEAM?			
2	A. No.			
3	•••			
4	Q. So is this the first time you're hearing about that you — you own stock in companies that own TEAM?			
5	A. Yeh.			
6	71. 1011.			
7	Q. Do you know whether you still own TEAM, or you know, own			
8	a por — a portion of TEAM?			
9	A. No. Yeh, no. I don't know.			
10	••••			
11	Q. Are you a shareholder [in Sky Scope TEAM]? Do you own part			
12	of it?			
13	A. Yeh, no. I have no idea. I've never — I can't say that I know. Q. Well, do you know whose decision it was to make you a stockholder in these six corporations?			
14				
15	A. No.			
16	Q. It wasn't you, I take it, since you didn't hear about it till today.			
17	A. Well, I mean, you know, who knows? I mean, you sign papers and you don't pay attention to stuff, but no I was never aware of it.			
18	and you don't pay attention to sturn, but no I was never aware or it.			
19	(Id. at 212:3-216:24.) Mr. Guzzardo also could not identify any compensation he ever received			
20	as a stockholder of TEAM. <i>Id.</i> at 215:13-19. Again, this testimony provides strong			
21	circumstantial evidence that the owners of Sky Scope willingly complied with whatever			
22	instructions or plans Mr. Woodward dictated, and that their acquiescence was in furtherance of			
23	the conspiracy.			
24	e. Testimony of TEAM Round Table Member Joseph McGuire.			
25	TEAM Round Table member Joseph McGuire provided still more testimony showing that			
26	Sky Scope's shareholders agreed to and followed Mr. Woodward's instructions with respect to			
27	that company. Mr. McGuire first learned that he had been a stockholder in Sky Scope and the			
28	other entities at his deposition. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 13 at 16:2-21.) Mr. McGuire further testific			
	PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY SCOPE'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT 17			

to his lack of knowledge about the nature of the companies in which he was a stockholder, his role in them, and what exactly he owned:

- Q. What did you know concerning the nature of these companies, what they did and what your role in them was?
- A. I didn't know much of anything.
- Q. What did you know about the nature of what you owned?

 Mr. Spaeth: Objection as to form. You can answer.
- Q. You can answer.
- A. I didn't know much of anything.

(*Id.* at 26:17-20 and 35:13-18.) Finally, Mr. McGuire testified that he did not recall receiving any compensation from Orrin Woodward for turning over his shares. (*Id.* at 34:16-20.)

In short, the testimony from the officers and shareholders of Sky Scope establishes that the leaders of Sky Scope willingly agreed to implement the instructions and objectives of Mr. Woodward and TEAM. A jury could readily conclude that Sky Scope therefore conspired with Mr. Woodward, TEAM, and TEAM leaders in furthering the anti-Quixtar campaign. Indeed, the ability and opportunity to conspire provides circumstantial evidence of participation in a conspiracy. *See Temborius*, 157 Mich. App. at 599-600, 403 N.W.2d 821, 827-28; *see also Mendocino Envtl. Ctr.*, 192 F.3d at 1303 n.34. The evidence here goes far beyond that and supports a finding of conspiracy.

2. Mr. Woodward's Unrestricted Stock Options in Sky Scope Constitute an Ownership Interest.

Even though his loyal followers were installed as the unwitting "owners" and "officers" of Sky Scope, Mr. Woodward made certain that Sky Scope and TEAM continued in their anti-Quixtar quest by retaining the unrestricted option to purchase the entirety of each shareholder's shares at any time, effective as of the date the stock was issued. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 16.) This right came at the nominal purchase price of \$1 per share. (*Id.*) Since each of the eleven shareholders owned thirty shares in each of the six companies, Mr. Woodward could acquire any shareholder's

interest for only \$180, and the entire company for less than \$2000. This ensured that Mr. Woodward would continue to influence the direction of the companies, no matter whose name appeared as an officer or shareholder on the corporate documents.

The options proved useful. On the eve of the preliminary injunction's expiration, in early February 2008, when Mr. Woodward and those acting in concert with him would no longer be prohibited by court order from disparaging Quixtar and soliciting its IBOs, *Mr. Woodward exercised his options, acquired all outstanding shares of the six corporations that owned TEAM, and merged them into Sky Scope*. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 19 (Plan of Merger); Ex. 20 (shareholder certificates surrendering all right, title and interest in the shares).) Mr. Woodward's ability to step in at any time and assume control of the companies from the shareholders further demonstrates Sky Scope's willing compliance with the campaign being orchestrated by Mr. Woodward, TEAM, and TEAM leaders and provides further circumstantial evidence of Sky Scope's participation in the conspiracy.

In short, the evidence shows that Sky Scope conspired with Mr. Woodward to create the appearance of distance between himself, TEAM and the TEAM leaders, in order to save himself and TEAM from being held in contempt and thereby further TEAM's tortious interference and Lanham Act violations. A jury could conclude on this evidence that through this course of events, Sky Scope provided the means by which the group's anti-Quixtar campaign could continue despite the Sullivan Order. These factual issues defeat summary judgment.

V. CONCLUSION

The evidence establishes that Sky Scope, TEAM and TEAM leaders, in combination with Orrin Woodward, "reached a unity of purpose or a common design and understanding" to raid Quixtar's IBOs, misappropriate Quixtar's trade secrets, and disparage Quixtar during a period when Mr. Woodward was enjoined from taking any actions in connection with TEAM. *In re Nw.*

⁹ Tellingly, even though Mr. Woodward's options entitled him to acquire the outstanding shares of Sky Scope at \$1 apiece, the shareholders testified that they handed over their entire interest in the company for nothing. Mr. Woodward acquired the entire company without ever paying a dime. (Schurz Aff., Ex. 10 at 276:2-4; Ex. 11 at 146:19-22; Ex. 13 at 33:15-34:20.)

2	1	Airlines Corn 208 F.R.D. at 199 (evalua	ating antitrust conspiracy claim). For all the foregoing	
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Dated: July 21, 2010 John Frankovich		reasons, sky beope s motion for summar	y judgment must be demed.	
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE 1 2 I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that I am an employee of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP and that pursuant to LR 5-3 I caused to be electronically filed on this date, a true and 3 4 correct copy of Plaintiff Quixtar Inc.'s Opposition to Defendant Sky Scope Team, Inc.'s Motion for Summary Judgment with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF System, which will 5 6 automatically e-serve the same on the attorneys of record set forth below. 7 8 John Desmond, *jpd@jonesvargas.com* Sharon M. Woods, swoods@bsdd.com 9 Morley Witus, mwitus@bsdd.com JONES VARGAS 100 W. Liberty St., 12th Floor, Daniel LaCombe, dlacombe@bsdd.com 10 Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, P.L.L.C. PO Box 281 211 West Fort Street, 15th Floor Reno, NV 89504 11 Detroit, MI 48226-3281 12 13 Dated: July 21, 2010 14 /s/ Kathleen E. Ryd Kathleen E. Ryd 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT SKY SCOPE'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT Case No. 3:07-cv-00505 sf-2861878